Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: NATO, CSCE

SUBJECT: CSCE/CBMS: MAY 17 POLADS DISCUSSION

REF: (A) USNATO 4109 DTG 211355Z APR 78,

- (B) USNATO 7485 DTG 031732Z AUG 77,
- (C) STATE 186715 DTG 082335Z AUG 77

1. IN CONNECTION WITH NEXT UPDATE OF 1978 SCHEDULE OF ALLIED MANEUVERS (REF A), UK REP SUGGESTED INCLUSION OF DATES WHEN TROOPS WILL BE ABSENT FROM BARRACKS, IN ADDITION TO DATES ALREADY IN SCHEDULE ON WHEN THEY WILL PARTICIPATE IN MANEUVERS. UK REP EXPLAINED THAT DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN TOTAL DEPLOYMENT OUTSIDE DUTY STATIONS AND MORE LIMITED PERIOD OF EXERCISES IS NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT NOTIFIED DATES FOR MANEUVERS ARE ACCURATE, AND TO INCLUDE, IF WE WISH TO DO SO, DATES ON ABSENCE FROM DUTY STATIONS UNDER "ADDITIONAL INFORMATION" IN NOTIFICATIONS. UK REP RECOGNIZED THAT IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR SOME ALLIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON ABSENCE FROM DUTY STATIONS, BUT THOUGHT AN EFFORT CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOULD BE MADE TO PROVIDE IT.

2. WE NOTE THAT QUESTION OF INCLUDING INFORMATION ON ABSENCE OF TROOPS FROM BARRACKS IN NOTIFICATIONS CAME UP LAST SUMMER (REF B), WHEN FRG AND FEW OTHER ALLIES FAVORED THIS ARRANGEMENT. AT THAT TIME WASHINGTON

GUIDANCE (PARA 3, REF C) STATED: "SOME MARGINAL CONFIDENCE

BUILDING MIGHT BE ACHIEVED BY ADDING TO A NOTIFICATION INFORMATION ON DATES OF MAJOR UNITS DEPARTING FROM AND RETURNING TO GARRISONS, IN MANNER SHOWN IN TEXT OF "STANDHAFTE CHATTEN". HOWEVER, IN CASE WHERE ABSENCE PROVED TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY LONGER THAN PERIOD OF EXERCISE, WHICH IS THE TYPE OF INFORMATION GERMANS APPARENTLY SUGGEST AS MOST USEFUL IN ITSELF, AN EXPLANTION WHY UNITS ARE REMAINING OUT OF GARRISON LONGER THAN PERIOD OF MANEUVER PLUS TIME REQUIRED TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM MANEUVER SITE WOULD THEN BE NECESSARY FOR MANY OF THE CSCE PARTICIPANTS IF ANY CONCRETE ADDITIONAL CONFIDENCE BUILDING WERE TO BE REALIZED."

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- 3. ADDITIONALLY, FROM PRACTICAL STANDPOINT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION ON CERTAIN COMPLEX DEPLOYMENTS OF US UNITS TO AND FROM DUTY STATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN MAJOR MANEUVERS WHERE REFORGER EXERCISE IS INVOLVED.
- 4. WITH WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE WE WOULD PLAN AT MAY 23 POLADS MEETING TO:

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(A) NOTE THAT INCLUSION OF "ABSENCE FROM BARRACKS" INFORMATION IN MANEUVER SCHEDULE APPEARED, IN PART, TO ENVISAGE INCLUSION OF SIMILAR INFORMATION IN FUTURE NOTIFICATIONS;

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(B) REPEAT GUIDANCE IN PARA 3, REF C, ON THIS POINT; AND

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(C) POINT OUT PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY OF PROVIDING INFORMATION ON ABSENCE OF US TROOPS FROM BARRACKS. BENNETT

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